Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL VIENNA 2513

PARIS FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, AU

SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA: PREPARATORY MEETING:

MARCH 30

1. UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM MET SEPARATELY MARCH 30 WITH GREEK CYPRIOT AND TURKISH CYPRIOT REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS MANNER IN WHICH INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED. ACCORDING TO UN UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL URGUHART, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE TWO MEETINGS, BOTH SESSIONS WENT EXCEEDINGLY SMOOTHLY. NEITHER GREEK-CYPRIOT LEADER PAPADOPOULOS NOR TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER ONAN RAISED OBJECTIONS TO ANY SUGGESTIONS MADE BY WALDHEIM, AND BOTH PLEDGED TO COOPERATE IN INSURING THAT CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE AND MAXIMUM PROGRESS IS REGISTERED BETWEEN MARCH 31 AND APRIL 7.

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2. AGREEMENT WAS QUICKLY REACHED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COMMENCE WITH A BRIEF PUBLIC SESSION ON MARCH 31 AT WHICH WALDHEIM WOULD MAKE AN OPENING STATEMENT. THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD THEN BE CLOSED TO THE PRESS SO THAT ONAN AND PAPADOPOULOS COULD IN TURN OUTLINE THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. IT WOULD BE AT THIS POINT THAT URGUHART THOUGHT THE TWO SIDES WOULD PUT THEIR CONCRETE PROPOSALS

ON THE TABLE, A PROCESS THAT WILL PRESUMABLY TAKE THE REMAINDER OF THE AFTERNOON. THE PARTIES WILL RESUME DISCUSSION AT A WORKING DINNER MARCH 31, AND THEN DISCUSS ALTERNATELY, THE TERRITORIAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES IN SUBSEQUENT MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS ON APRIL 1 AND APRIL 2.

3. URQUHART SAID WALDHEIM INTENDED TO PRESIDE UNTIL MIDDAY SATURDAY, BUT WOULD STAY IN VIENNA INTO SUNDAY IF HIS PRESENCE SEEMED WARRANTED BY THE NATURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE WOULD IN ANY EVENT BE NO COMMUNIQUE WHEN WALDHEIM DEPARTED, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD SIMPLY PICK UP AGAIN ON MONDAY, APRIL 4 WITH AMBASSADOR PEREZ DE CUELLAR PRESIDING. THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT ALTERNATE MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS FOR AT LEAST THREE FULL DAYS.

4. URQUHART SAID THAT WHILE BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT FOLLOWING THE VIENNA TALKS THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESUME IN NICOSIA, THERE WAS STILL UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE EXACT DATE. THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS WANTED TO RESUME ON APRIL 20, BUT THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS HAD SUGGESTED WAITING UNTIL EARLY MAY. URQUHART THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE THE BEGINNING OF A TURKISH ATTEMPT TO STRETCH OUT THE TALKS PAST THE TURKISH ELECTIONS. THIS WAS THE ONLY SOUR NOTE IN THE MARCH 30 DISCUSSIONS AND URQUHART SAID WALDHEIM WAS GENERALLY ENCOURAGED BY WHAT HE SENSED WAS A NEW SPIRIT AMONG THE NEGOTIATORS.MEEHAN CONFIDENTIAL

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